

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

DIWY-01 /055 W

----- 014077

R 060940Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TMRRUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 2019

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, PINS, AF

SUBJ: PROVINCIAL GOVERNORS CONFER

1. A SEMINAR INVOLVING ALL PROVINCIAL GOVERNORS WAS HELD IN KABUL MARCH 29-APRIL 2, UNDER MINISTRY OF INTERIOR AUSPICES. IT WAS FIRST GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE HELD SINCE LAST MONTHS OF MONARCHY, IN EARLY 1973, AND WAS GIVEN PROMINENT COVERAGE BY MEDIA AS SIGN OF REPUBLICAN REGIME'S CONCERN FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE, EFFICIENT ADMINISTRATION, AND CAMPAIGN AGAINST CORRUPTION.

2. AMONG NUTS AND BOLTS ISSUES WERE DISTRIBUTION OF IDENTITY CARDS, CONTROL OF STATE WAREHOUSES, AND RELATIONS WITH SUCH INSTITUTIONS AS AFGHAN RED CRESCENT SOCIETY. ON LESS MUNDANE LEVEL REPRESENTATIVES OF VARIOUS MINISTRIES GAVE PRESENTATIONS ON NATURE OF NEW EDUCATIONAL REFORM, EXPECTATIONS FOR COORDINATING COMMITTEES FOR CELEBRATION OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR, INTERNAL SECURITY, AND FORMATION OF PROVINCIAL CITIZENS' COUNCILS TO DEAL WITH QUESTIONS INVOLVING PERSONAL FEUDS AND INHERITANCE.

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3. GOVERNORS WERE GIVEN CEREMONIAL DINNER BY MINISTER OF INTERIOR FAIZ MOHAMMAD, ATTENDED BY SEVERAL CABINET MEMBERS, SOME MEMBERS OF CENTRAL COMMITTEE, AND SOME "PUSHTUNISTANIS RESIDENT IN KABUL". HIGH POINT OF SEMINAR WAS MEETING AT PALACE WITH PRESIDENT DAUD WHO SPOKE ON NEED FOR DETERMINED PATRIOTIC EFFORT BY GOVERNORS TO OVERCOME COUNTRY'S BACKWARDNESS AND MAKE GOOD ON REPUBLICAN GOALS OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND BETTERMENT OF LIVES OF ORDINARY AFGHANS.

4. COMMENT: THERE IS LITTLE REASON TO DOUBT THAT NATURE OF GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE WAS LARGELY AS PRESENTED. HOWEVER, TWO CONCERNS SEEM TO HAVE RECEIVED MORE ATTENTION THAN PUBLICLY STATED: INTERNAL SECURITY, ESPECIALLY REGARDING "PAKISTANI AGENTS", AND GOVERNORS' TENDENCY TO LOOK TO CENTRAL GOVERNMENT FOR DIRECTION ON MATTERS THAT SHOULD BE RESOLVED AT PROVINCIAL LEVEL. ACCORDING TO ONE SOURCE, GOVERNORS' IDEAS ABOUT SHAPE AND SUBSTANCE OF A NEW CONSTITUTION WERE SOLICITED, BUT THIS HAS YET TO BE CONFIRMED.
ELIOT

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT, PROVINCIAL GOVERNOR, SEMINARS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: SmithRJ
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975KABUL02088
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750119-0400
From: KABUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750477/aaaacsrt.tel
Line Count: 80
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: SmithRJ
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 JUL 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <24 NOV 2003 by SmithRJ>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PROVINCIAL GOVERNORS CONFER
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, PINS, AF
To: n/a
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006